

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

UPON THE LIFE OF

General James Green Martin

BY

HON. WALTER CLARK

Mrs John Wood
with love of
W. B. Martin



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

UPON THE LIFE OF

General James Green Martin

**DELIVERED AT RALEIGH, N. C.,
MAY 10, 1916.**

BY

HON. WALTER CLARK,

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

GENERAL JAMES GREEN MARTIN.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY HON. WALTER CLARK.

MAY 10, 1916.

President of the Ladies Memorial Association, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fifty years and one have fled since wreathed around with cypress and with laurel the chosen banner of a great people passed into history. No banner was ever borne by braver soldiery nor sustained by generals of greater genius or by any people with more devotion. But Fortune "that name for the unknown combinations of an infinite power was wanting to us, and without her aid the designs of man are as bubbles on a troubled ocean." Once 8 millions of the great Anglo Saxon race hailed that banner with gladness. But when it passed, it passed forever, without hope that it should come again, for "its people's hopes were dead." Yet, we see what the world has never seen before—from one end to the other of the land over which it waved, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, from the Gulf to the great rivers of the North, the Ohio and the Mississippi, countless monuments stand in perpetual memorial of the valor of the soldiers that bore it, and on these recurring anniversaries we meet with music and with flowers and with beauty, in memory of the "storm cradled nation that fell" and to honor those who were faithful, even unto death.

The world shows nothing else like it. In historic England there are possibly a dozen or more monuments to commemorate great victories won in her great island story of a thousand years. In France here and there

a stone tells an incident of the splendid heroism of that race, and in Rome with its 2,500 years of empire, of history and of tradition a dozen arches recall the fame of a few great leaders. In France, in England, in Rome even these have been placed at the expense and by the order of the government. These monuments of ours have arisen at the command of no government and not at the expense of the public treasury. They are the tribute paid by the noble women of the South who have never forgotten the matchless valor of the soldiery who stood on the perilous edge of battle and died where they could not conquer.

I would have you remember comrades that we owe every monument that stands from Virginia to Texas and every memorial meeting like this to the unshaken fidelity of the women of the South.

At the request of the Ladies Memorial Association of Raleigh I am to recall some of the events of the stirring life of one to whom the State largely owes the fact that among all the troops of the Confederacy there was admittedly none that were better disciplined, better armed, better equipped, than those from North Carolina—GENERAL JAMES GREEN MARTIN.

“There are hours long departed which memory brings
 Like blossoms of Eden to twine around the heart.
 As time rushes by on the might of his wings
 They may darken awhile but they never depart.”

There will never depart from the memory of those who lived thru the stirring scenes of the spring and summer of 1861 the exaltation of the Southern people. It was the birth of a new nation, filled with confidence, and

roseate hopes. It was then that companies of gallant young men were coming to Raleigh by every train and regiments were being organised, drilled, equipped and sent on to the front. The enthusiasm was universal and irresistible.

Among those upon whom fell, at that time, more than upon anyone else the burden of organising and marshalling these troops for service was the gallant soldier whose life I am asked to summarise in a brief speech on this occasion.

The Adjutant General of N. C. at the outbreak of the War was Col. John F. Hoke who had charge of organising the volunteer regiments in the beginning, while Gen. James G. Martin had been appointed by the Governor to organise the 10 regiments of State troops, as they were called, who had been enlisted for "3 years or the War." The "Volunteers" were only 12 months men. Col. Hoke, however, was soon elected Colonel of the 13th volunteers and thereupon Gen. Martin by orders of the Governor took charge of the organisation and equipment of both volunteers and State troops until the legislature met, when Gen. Martin was elected Adjutant General, with all the military power of the State, subject only to the Governor, under his constitutional authority. Under General Martin were the Departments of Quartermaster General and Commissary General, headed by those most efficient officers, Major John Devereux, and Major Thomas D. Hogg, besides the Ordnance, Pay and Medical Departments which were also under most efficient heads. How he and they discharged their duties can not be shown better than by the fact already stated that there were no troops in the South from any other State that as a whole were as well equipped, armed and disciplined as those from this State. He was to the North

Carolina troops what the famous Carnot was to the Troops of France in the Great Revolution. Of Carnot it was said "He organised victory."

General James G. Martin was the eldest son of Doctor William Martin, a physician, planter, shipbuilder and Member of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and his wife Sophia Scott Daugé. He was born in Elizabeth City, N. C., 14 Feb., 1819, and after preliminary instruction at St. Mary's in Raleigh, at that time a school for boys, where he acquired the friendship of many who afterwards distinguished themselves in the Mexican War and in the War between the States and in civil life, he entered West Point in 1836.

Upon his graduation at West Point in July, 1840, the young cadet was assigned as second Lieutenant to the First Regiment of Artillery then on duty at Newport, R. I. In 1842 he saw his first service in the field on the Canadian Frontier during the controversy with England over the Maine and New Brunswick Boundaries known as the "Aroostook War" or the "War of the Maps."

This was, however, settled by Mr. Webster and Lord Ashburton by the treaty which bears their names. The First Artillery having returned to Newport he was married there 12 July, 1844, to Mary Anne Murray Read—the great-granddaughter of George Read of Delaware, a signer of the declaration of American Independence, and also of William Thompson, a Brigadier General in the Army of the Revolution. Lieutenant Martin remained in garrison at Newport till 1846 when he was sent with his battery to General Taylor at Brownsville, Texas. War with Mexico was declared 12 May, 1846.

During the 3 days assault at Monterey 21-22 and 23 Sept., 1846, Lieutenant Martin, tho still second Lieutenant, was in command of his battery which distin-

guished itself by clearing the houses of the enemy's riflemen and arriving at the Plaza before the infantry, who came up the converging streets. The reputation thus achieved was so great that thereafter he was known in his own regiment as "the man of Monterey." The battery was sent around to reinforce General Scott at Vera Cruz and marched with him to the City of Mexico. It was thus at Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Cherubusco, Molino del Rey and Chapultepec and at the occupation of the City of Mexico. Lieutenant Martin at the hard fought battle of Cherubusco in the valley of Mexico, 20 Aug., 1847, lost his right arm which was shattered by grape shot while his battery was hotly engaged with the enemy strongly entrenched behind stone walls, pierced for musketry and artillery. But despite the wound he rode over to the adjacent battery in the same regiment which was commanded by Lieutenant "Stonewall" Jackson and asking him to take command of his battery as he had lost his arm, he took the sleeve in his teeth and rode off the field. These two young men had served side by side in the same regiment from Vera Cruz up to that point. In recognition of his gallantry Lieut. Martin was made a brevet major for "gallant and meritorious conduct at the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco."

In 1896 on a tour thru Mexico I followed the steps of that army from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico, visiting in turn each of the battlefields and can appreciate the valor and ability of that little army of 8,000 men which starting from Vera Cruz pierced the enemy's center and did not pause, and without sustaining a defeat, until they entered the halls of the Montezumas. After that final success the treaty of peace was signed at Gaudalupe Hidalgo by which half of the territory of Mexico was ceded to us. When the war broke out the

United States and Mexico were equal in area. At its conclusion the United States was three times the size of Mexico.

This was the result of the heroism of Taylor and Scott and the little armies which they commanded. As a result we not only settled our title to Texas, but acquired California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. But in that little army were young officers who 15 years later were destined to become the leaders of the armies on both sides in our great struggle. Capt. Robert E. Lee, Lieut. T. J. Jackson, Lieutenant U. S. Grant, Capt. Joseph E. Johnston, Lieut. W. T. Sherman, Lieutenants Geo. B. McCellan and D. H. Hill, Capt. Braxton Bragg, and indeed nearly every officer of the highest rank on either side in the Great Civil War saw service in those stirring days in 1846 and 47 in Mexico.

After his discharge from the Hospital Major Martin was transferred to duty and was stationed at Fortress Monroe, Philadelphia, and Governor's Island and was then sent to Fort Snelling in Minnesota which was at that time on the remote frontier of civilization. At the latter point he had the misfortune to lose his wife who left surviving her four children.

On 8 Feb., 1858, Major Martin was married to Miss Hettie King, sister of Gen. Rufus King, who had been his fellow cadet at West Point. She was the eldest daughter of Charles King, President of Columbia College, New York City, and a granddaughter of Rufus King, first American Minister to Great Britain. Her younger sister married Mr. Waddington, at one time prime minister of France, and is well known to us by her charming books, giving an account of her visits to Moscow, London and Rome when her husband was successively Ambassador from France to Italy, Russia and

England, and her no less charming work on "Chateau Life" in France.

Major Martin served as Quarter Master in the Utah Expedition under Albert Sidney Johnston who later fell in the meridian of his fame on the field of battle at Shiloh. At the date of that expedition (1858) there was no railroad west of the Mississippi, and the expedition to Utah received its ammunition and supplies under guard of troops over the long route from the Mississippi to Salt Lake.

On 20 May, 1861, North Carolina repealed the Ordinance by which she had become a member of the Federal Union. Major Martin was then stationed at Fort Riley, a frontier post in Kansas. He at once resigned and started on his long journey to Raleigh to offer his sword and his services to his native State. When the train passed thru Illinois ex-Captain Ulysses S. Grant, then in civil life, got aboard at some way station. They had been cadets together at West Point and had served together in the long march from Vera Cruz to Mexico. Major Martin stated his purpose of offering his services to North Carolina and Grant his intention of tendering his services to Mr. Lincoln. He and Grant had a long conversation as old comrades and Major Martin mentioned that he was on his way to Raleigh to tender his services to his native State. His young son (now Judge William B. Martin of Norfolk) asked his father whether he was not afraid that he (Grant) would report him to Lincoln and have him arrested, which was answered by an emphatic "No."

Upon arrival at Raleigh Major Martin at once called on Gov. Ellis and tendering his services was given the same rank which he had held in the U. S. Service and was appointed Adjutant General for the ten Regiments

known as State Troops, which were then being raised for "three years or the war." The Act to raise these troops had been passed by the Legislature on 12 May, anticipating the Act of Secession, and General Martin at once devoted himself to the arming, equipping, drilling and disciplining this body of men until he took charge of all the troops of the State under the Act of the Legislature of 20 Sept., 1861, which empowered the Governor to appoint "an Adjutant and Inspector General, with the rank of Major General, who shall be general in chief of all the forces of North Carolina," subject only to the Constitutional authority of the Governor. In this capacity he prepared all the troops of the State for service and retained command of them until from time to time successive regiments thus armed, equipped and drilled were forwarded to Virginia and turned over to the Confederate service.

General Martin's service in the old army both in the line and on the staff had rendered him thoroughly familiar with the duties required of this office, and he entered with untiring energy into the thoro organization of the North Carolina troops.

The entire supervision of the defense of the State was also turned over to him. The militia laws were revised according to his suggestion. Horses for the cavalry and transport service were bought in Kentucky and hurried in droves thru the mountains. Saddles and harness material were secured by special agents in New Orleans and rushed to Raleigh by rail. Powder works and arsenals for the manufacture and remodeling of arms were created. Camps of instruction were established, and skilled armorers secured to make sabres, bayonets and swords by the thousands. Shoe and clothing factories for the troops were located at several points in

the State. Quarter Master, commissary and ordnance stores were collected from all parts of the State. Cannon were provided for the artillery and the forts were erected and strengthened on the coast. Besides the "State Troops" volunteers were called out, disciplined and sent to Virginia until North Carolina finally furnished to the army of the Confederacy more troops than any other State and more fighting men in proportion to her population than, till then, any nation had ever furnished in any war.

On 14 March, 1862, Burnside captured New Bern and threatened an advance into the interior. On 15 May Gen. Martin received a letter from the Confederate government enclosing a commission as brigadier general in the Confederate army and asking that he should take command of eastern North Carolina "in this emergency." With the consent of the Governor the commission was accepted and General Martin took command of a North Carolina brigade with headquarters at Kinston, to hold Burnside in check. During the 7 days' battles around Richmond in June he was able to reassure General Lee, who anticipated an advance from Burnside, by replying to his inquiry that Burnside had made no advance. In July after the 7 days' battles around Richmond, General Lee telegraphed the Governor, in preparing the defense of Richmond in anticipation of our first Northern campaign, asking if he could spare more troops. The Governor replied "I have no troops but Martin's brigade. You can have that if needed." Thereupon General Martin with this brigade was ordered to Virginia and was stationed at Drewry's Bluff, below Richmond, protecting that City while the Confederate army was across the Potomac in our first Maryland campaign. This brigade was composed of the 17th, 44th, 47th, and

52nd N. C. Regiments. At Drewry's Bluff General Martin was slightly wounded in his remaining arm in an advance of the enemy. Gov. Clark, learning of the enemy's activity in eastern North Carolina wired for the return of Martin and his brigade. But all the Confederate government could spare was one regiment, the 17th N. C. commanded by Gen. Martin's brother, which he was permitted to bring with him. The 26th regiment was transferred from Ransom's brigade to fill up the gap left in the brigade by the removal of the 17th and later the 11th N. C. regiment was added to the brigade which was placed under the command of that most accomplished gentleman and soldier, Gen. James Johnston Pettigrew, and after his lamented death, it was commanded in succession by Gen. Kirkland and Gen. McRae.

General Lee requested Gen. Martin that on his return, while retaining his rank as Confederate Brigadier he should resume his duties as Adjutant General to raise and equip more troops from this State, in which work he had been so efficient. General Martin with whom Gov. Vance, who had now succeeded as Governor, heartily concurred, established a system of blockade running from Wilmington to Bermuda and Nassau, which contributed so greatly to the necessities of our people and the needs of our troops by bringing in provisions, arms, ammunition, clothing and supplies of all kinds. To procure these the State purchased large quantities of cotton to be shipped out and sold at war prices. So successful was this system that North Carolina troops were better armed, clothed and equipper than those of any other Southern State, and large quantities of stores were turned over to the Confederate government, which singularly enough had not established a similar system nor purchased even one vessel to break the various blockades.

North Carolina had purchased a fast vessel formerly known as the "Lord Clyde." Governor Vance appointed Thomas Crossen her captain and changing her name to the "Ad.-Vance," she successfully ran the blockade thru the enemy's squadron at the mouth of the Cape Fear for a long time. This vessel was at last captured towards the close of the war, but only by reason of the fact that the Confederate government took the small quantity of good coal which the State had procured for the use of its steamer with the result that, forced to use inferior coal, the vessel lost its high speed and besides left a dark trail of smoke which enabled the enemy's vessels to keep track of her.

In the early fall of 1863, not long after the return from the Gettysburg campaign Gen. Lee notified General Martin that he would require every man North Carolina could furnish for his next campaign, and urged Gen. Martin to take command of a Confederate brigade again with headquarters at Kinston.

After consultation with the Governor Gen. Martin again resigned as Adjutant General and took command of a brigade of Confederate troops with headquarters again at Kinston. This brigade consisted of the 17th N. C. regiment commanded by Col. Wm. F. Martin, the General's brother; 42nd N. C., Col. John E. Brown; 50th N. C., Col. George Wortham, and 66th N. C., Col. A. Duncan Moore—to which was attached Paris' battery of artillery and Jefford's cavalry. This brigade was soon afterwards transferred to Wilmington, and a part of these troops under Gen. Martin's personal command participated in the advance upon New Bern. In this movement they captured the "Newport Barracks" with 10 guns, a large amount of stores and prisoners and destroyed the railroad bridge across the Neuse. The Fed-

eral General Palmer who commanded the Federal forces at New Bern says "Martin did his part well."

During the winter of 1863-4 Gen. Martin thoroughly drilled and equipped the brigade which became one of the finest brigades in Lee's army. In May, 1864, he was ordered with his brigade, some 4,000 strong, to Virginia, but left one regiment, the 50th N. C. regiment, under Col Geo. Wortham in this State. At Bermuda Hundreds on 17 May, 1864, the great efficiency and the rapid movement of Gen. Martin's well drilled troops in brigade formation showed to his men as well as commanding officers the value of the perfect discipline and obedience which he had exacted and which saved us that day from probable disaster.

On 20 May, 3 days later, the brigade was again at the hard fought battle of "Howletts" where Gen. Martin handled the brigade so coolly and easily that it responded to all orders even while charging the enemy under a heavy fire as if on dress parade and carried the enemy's position. By reason of his strict discipline the General had not been over popular with his troops, but at the close of this successful battle the brigade cheered him and taking him on their shoulders carried him to headquarters, a shock to his sense of discipline, but a striking tribute from the troops of their admiration for his personal bravery and military efficiency. He also commanded the Brigade at Second Cold Harbor 3 June, 1864, when Grant sustained so severe a repulse that when he ordered his men to advance again to the assault not a soldier in his army stirred. In the winter of 1864, after Gen. Martin had been sent to take command of western North Carolina and Gen. Kirkland had succeeded him in command of his brigade near Chaffin's Bluff, Gen. Lee rode along the lines and sending for Gen. Kirkland spoke very highly

of the discipline and efficiency of the brigade. Gen. Kirkland attributed its high state of efficiency to its former commander, Gen. Martin. To this Gen. Lee replied, "*Gen. Martin is one to whom North Carolina owes a debt she will never pay.*"

General Martin's health had been much impaired by his constant service as Adjutant General in the equipment and organisation of our North Carolina troops, and by the campaigns and services of his brigade in eastern North Carolina and around Petersburg together with the loss of his arm in Mexico. He accordingly tendered his resignation. This was declined "owing to his valuable services," but in July, 1864, he was placed in command of western North Carolina with headquarters at Asheville, where he promptly proceeded to raise recruits for our depleted regiments and form new ones. With the latter he beat back Kirk and his marauders along the Tennessee line.

In the spring of 1865 Gen. Sherman sent a cavalry column of 3,000 men to force its way across the mountains to form a junction with the Union army in Tennessee. This column was driven back by a small force of Confederates at Swannanoa Gap, but finally passed thru Hickory Nut Gap and was approaching Asheville when the truce between Sherman and Johnston was declared. Its commander, Gen. Gillam, and Gen Martin met about 6 miles from Asheville, on the road to Hendersonville, and an armistice was concluded by which the Union Cavalry were permitted to proceed to Tennessee. Under the terms of this agreement, in order to prevent levying contributions on the march by the Federal Cavalry, Gen. Martin raised provisions for 4,000 men supplemented from the Confederate stores in Asheville. After the close of hostilities on the statement of the case to the Federal

General George H. Thomas, who had been Gen. Martin's classmate at West Point and who was then commanding in Tennessee, the full amount of these supplies was sent up by wagon train and distributed to the citizens of Asheville and was their principal food supply during the summer of 1865.

The truce that was made between the forces under Gen Martin on 23 April, 1865, which was 3 days before Johnston's surrender, was one of the most remarkable and dramatic events of the War. Three thousand hostile troops were peacefully and quietly passed thru the Confederate lines then thru the Main Street of Asheville and down the French Broad River preceded and escorted by Confederate cavalry, the streets of Asheville being policed by Confederate Infantry, with not a single untoward incident, altho the number of *led horses* in the Federal Column gave rise to much chaffing between the soldiers. To add to the incidents of this memorable occasion, Gen. Gillam and his staff in full Federal uniform dined with Gen. Martin and his staff in full Confederate uniform, and the last thing Gen. Gillam said to Gen. Martin, as he left, was that he would give him 24 hours notice of the ending of the truce.

Upon reaching the Union lines in Tennessee and learning by wire of Johnston's surrender at Greensboro, Gen. Gillam proceeded to Knoxville but dispatched a brigade under Gen. Brown to surprise and capture Asheville, in direct violation of the terms of the truce. This the Federals succeeded in doing, but General Palmer, the Federal General, in a most courteous letter acknowledged the error of his subordinate and released Gen. Martin and his troops from their parole. Gen. Martin thereupon gathered up the few officers and men who had not left Asheville and proceeding to Waynes-

ville joined Thomas' legion which was under his command. On 10 May, 1865, however, he surrendered that point to the Federal troops who were closing in on him on all sides. He thus ended his military career. After having served gallantly in two wars, and after a military service of 20 years, maimed of an arm, without a profession, penniless and deprived of his civil rights, he began life anew.

Gen. Martin soon obtained license to practice law, in Aug., 1866, and in the discharge of the duties of that profession and as an active member of the Episcopal Church which he represented both in the Diocesan and General Conventions he passed the remaining years of his life in the enjoyment of the profound respect of the community in which he lived. He died in Asheville 4 Oct., 1878, and was buried in the churchyard of Trinity Episcopal Church, which building was not at that time completed. Tho he was 47 years of age, when under the force of circumstances he took out license to practice law he promptly acquired high standing at the Bar, for 3 years later when the Fraud Commission was created to investigate the Swepson and Littlefield frauds and three able lawyers were required, the Legislature selected Judge William M. Shipp, ex-Attorney General Joseph B. Batchelor, and General James G. Martin.

When General Martin's headquarters were plundered on the surprise and capture of Asheville in violation of the truce made with Gen. Gillam, among other property lost was his sabre which he had worn both in the Mexican War and in our War. Eleven years afterwards it was sent to his son, Judge W. B. Martin, by a young man from Arkansas who while traveling in Michigan, or Wisconsin, found it and obtained possession of it. The belt attached to it still had Gen. Martin's

name and rank on it and a clasp with the N. C. coat of arms. This sword is still in possession of his son, Judge W. B. Martin of Norfolk, Va. On the blade has been inscribed on one side his rank in the U. S. army and the battles in Mexico in which he wore the sword and on the other his rank, as Major General of North Carolina and Brigadier General in the Confederate service, and the battles in which he wore it, and the regiments which composed his last brigade—for he commanded two, at different times.

General Martin's grandfather, James Green Martin, was a Methodist minister who resided in Norfolk, Va. He married Susanna Bruce who was descended from the Bruces in Scotland. He left two children, William and Margaret, the former of whom removed to Elizabeth City, N. C., where he became a prominent physician and married Sophia Scott Daugé, a daughter of Gen. Peter Daugé of Camden County.

Gen. Martin left two sons and two daughters. 1. William B. Martin, a highly respected and honored Judge now residing at Norfolk, Va.; 2. James G. Martin, Jr. The latter has since died leaving two daughters, Mrs. Esther K. Metz, wife of Charles Metz, who now resides in Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Anne M. Holmes, widow of E. I. Holmes, now residing in Asheville, N. C.; 3. Miss Annie H. Martin of Asheville, N. C., who has recently died; and 4. Mrs. Marianne Tennent, now deceased, who left an only daughter, Annie M. Caldwell, wife of J. H. Caldwell, who resides at Hawkinsville, Ga. Mrs. Annie D. Martin, widow of James G. Martin, Jr., is still living and resides in Asheville, N. C.

We may think the services of Gen. Martin and his comrades minimised by comparison with the enormous forces now engaged in Europe. But we must not forget

that the combatants in the present war are embattled nations. Down to our War the world had seen no greater struggle. The federal records show that the Union placed first and last in line 2,850,000 men, while on the Confederate side, whose records have been lost, the estimates are from 600,000 to 800,000. Of these North Carolina furnished over 125,000, the bulk of whom were raised, equipped, drilled and sent to the front under the supervision of General Martin.

We can also judge of the magnitude of our War by the numbers engaged on great historic fields. Cesar when he won the world's Empire over Pompey at Pharsalia commanded only 22,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry. Napoleon won the mastership of France by his victory at Marengo with 21,000 men and the supremacy in Europe at Austerlitz with 80,000 and lost it at Waterloo where he commanded 65,000 men. We achieved our independence at Yorktown where we captured 7,073 British with a loss in killed of 156 Americans and 85 French.

We can also judge of the relative importance of our struggle by the fact that in the Revolutionary War in which we won our independence against the greatest power in the world of that time, we left, during the entire 7 years, only 1,735 men dead on the field of battle and we would have been beaten then but for the help of France. In the War of 1812, our second war with Great Britain, we had only 1,235 killed outright tho that war saved us the entire country beyond the Mississippi, half of our territory at that date, and in the War with Mexico which brought us Texas, California, and the great territory lying between them, one third of the area of the Union at present, we lost only 1,047 men killed. In our war, 1861-5, North Carolina alone had 5,016 men killed

in battle, 9,000 more died from wounds and 29,000 from disease, making a total of 43,000 men, (or one-third of the whole number of soldiers from this State) which North Carolina lost during the War, to say nothing of the wounded and crippled who survived.

Such record is only possible to a brave and determined people. There are those who will say that the cause of our war was slavery, and therefore it was unjust. After the lapse of more than half a century we can afford to speak plainly on this subject. Not one man in 20 in the South owned slaves, and those who served with our soldiers know well that they would not have fought to preserve that institution. It is also true that on the other side, the soldiery would not have gone into battle for the abolition of slavery and ever indignantly denied such motive. In truth the soldiers of the South fought for independence, for the principle that every people had the right to govern themselves, and to change their government at will. The soldiery of the North fought for the Union, and the Union only, because they believed that the preservation of liberty depended upon the continuance of the Union in its integrity and that if this republic failed, there would never be another. Yet we must admit that at the foundation of the desire for independence there was, and there had been from the beginning, a feeling that our right to maintain our own institutions including, of course, that of slavery, depended upon our having an independent government, secure from interference by the States of the North. Whatever comment may be made, this is the plain statement of the facts, and it may be added that the history of the world shows that, in like manner all great wars have been always based upon some economic cause.

Probably, I may say almost with certainty, the two

most brilliant soldiers from North Carolina in that war were the two young major generals—Pender, who was killed at 29, and Hoke, who was a major general at 26. The memory of both we have perpetuated in the names of our counties. They were both magnificent soldiers, and deserved higher rank even than that which they won but it may be doubted if with all the splendor of their services they rendered more efficient aid to their State and the Confederacy than the General who brought into service and equipped, drilled and disciplined the splendid soldiery whom Hoke and Pender and others afterwards commanded with such distinction for themselves and honor to their State. When the roll of her sons is called, North Carolina may well say of General Martin in the words of the great Chieftain, whom I have quoted “*North Carolina owes a debt to General Martin, which she can never repay.*”

North Carolina has established as its memorial day the 10th of May, because it is the anniversary of the death of Stonewall Jackson, the greatest grief, until the final one, which fell upon the Confederacy, and a loss but for which the South might well have succeeded. During the Trojan War, Achilles was the greathero of the Greeks. After the close of the war and his death, Ulysses when starting on his memorable voyage, which is so beautifully narrated by Homer in the Odyssey, said that he “proposed to sail beyond the western stars and touch at the Happy Isles, where perchance we may see again the great Achilles whom we knew, and those who loved and followed him.” There are still with us some who like Ulysses may ere long pass beyond the western stars. May they touch at the Happy Isles and see again, perchance, our great Achilles, and the friends and comrades who loved and followed him.

There are thousands who are already gone on that long voyage. Of them we may say:

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest
With all their country’s wishes blest.
By fairy hands their knell is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung

When Spring with dewy fingers cold
Returns to deck their hallowed mold
She dresses there a sweeter sod
Than fancy’s feet have ever trod.

There Honor comes a pilgrim gray
To bless the turf that wraps their clay
And freedom shall awhile repair
To dwell a weeping hermit there.”

